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Northern California Architect Selected for New Sutter County Courthouse

San Francisco—Northern California architecture firm RossDrulisCusenbery has been selected to design the new Sutter County Courthouse in Yuba City, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site acquisition, will provide a new seven-courtroom courthouse, replacing three overcrowded, aged, and unsafe facilities.

The new Sutter County Courthouse was ranked as an “Immediate Need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. The proposed courthouse will replace courtrooms in the historic Sutter County Courthouse, originally built in 1872, Courthouse East, built across the street as the county administration building in 1953, and a leased facility.

“We are very pleased with this selection of RossDrulisCusenbery as the architect for the new courthouse. They bring extensive experience in courthouse design and understand the importance of this new building to our community,” said Presiding Judge Christopher R. Chandler, Superior Court of Sutter County. “The new courthouse is not only critically needed by our court, but it will be an important addition to Yuba City’s civic center and will benefit the citizens of Sutter County for years to come.”

The new Sutter County Courthouse project is currently in site acquisition. A county-owned, 3-acre site in Yuba City’s government center, on the east side of Civic Center Boulevard and just north of the current jail and sheriff’s offices, has been the preferred site for the new courthouse since the 1970s. The AOC and the County are negotiating a property exchange agreement for the site, subject to approval by the State Public Works Board (SPWB) in the summer of 2010. Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until the site acquisition, which also requires environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act, is approved by the SPWB. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2014. The County expects to take over space vacated by the court in the historic courthouse and Courthouse East (at 463 Second Street).

The architecture firm of RossDrulisCusenbery, with offices in San Francisco and Sonoma, was established in 1985 and has extensive civic architecture experience, including several California courthouses. Examples include the Contra Costa County Family Law Center and interiors for both

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the San Francisco Civic Center Courthouse and the Napa County Criminal Court and Administrative Center.

The new Sutter County Courthouse is among the first of 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties.

More information about the project is at:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sutteryuba.htm

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.